

REMARKS

Responsive to paragraph 1 of the office action, four replacement drawing sheets are submitted herewith for Figs. 2 and 8-10.

The integral molding language of claims 4, 7 and 21 is as described at page 14, lines 8-11. New claim 22 is as described at page 13, lines 22-24.

The Rejection of Claims 4-18 for Indefiniteness (paragraph 3)

The rejection of claims 4-18 for indefiniteness has been addressed by the present amendments. The “annular metal fitting” recited in the claims is that shown as element 4 in Fig. 1 of the drawings. Claim 1 has been corrected in that, as can be seen in applicants’ drawings, the annular metal fitting is not “lower than the insulating sleeve.” On the contrary, the annular metal fitting 4 is located intermediate the length of the “hard insulation sleeve” 2, i.e. located at the junction of the large-diameter and small-diameter portions of the “hard insulation sleeve” (also see page 14, lines 21-24). The annular metal fitting 4 is now accurately recited in claim 4 as being located longitudinally between a lower end of the polymer cladding 3 and the receiving port of 5 of the hard insulation sleeve 2

The Rejection of Claims 1 and 2 for Anticipation by Johansson (paragraph 5)

The rejection of claims 1 and 2 is moot in view of cancellation of those claims.

The Rejection of Claims 4-7 and 9-13 for Anticipation by Varreng

The rejection of claims 4-7 and 9-13 for anticipation by Varreng is respectfully traversed. The “stress release device” (7, 17) of Varreng, as indicated by the cross-hatching in the drawings, is an elastomer, not a hard insulation sleeve as recited by claim 4 (also see new claim 22). Further, The “stress release device” (7, 17) of Varreng has no port for receiving a stress release cone on the terminal end of a cable, as recited by claim 4 (also see new claim 20).

Also note that in Varreng the “voltage stress release device 7 is installed on the prepared cable end,” quoting from column 1, lines 61 and 62, of Varreng. That structure is in contrast to applicants’ claimed integral structure which is a prefabricated connection designed to receive insertion of a stress release cone of a cable terminal.

Still further, Varreng discloses no metal fitting embedded in the “voltage stress release device” (7, 17) which the Examiner mis-characterizes as a “hard insulation sleeve”.

New claim 19 recites structure further distinguishing applicants’ invention from anything suggested by Varreng.

The Rejection of Claims 4 and 10 for Anticipation by Quaggia

The rejection is moot as to canceled claim 10.

Insofar as the rejection might be deemed applicable to claim 4 as amended it is respectfully traversed.

Quaggia neither discloses nor suggests a receiving port in an end of the “insulating body 11” as recited by claim 4 here. Further, Quaggia, in [0101] describes

the "covering field control element 13" as being "in contact with the upper edge 15 of the conductive coating 12." As seen in Fig. 2 of Quaggia, the upper edge of the conductive coating 15 is between the "deflecting cone 26" and the "insulating body 11", not at an interface between 11 and 14, as would be required to meet claim 4.

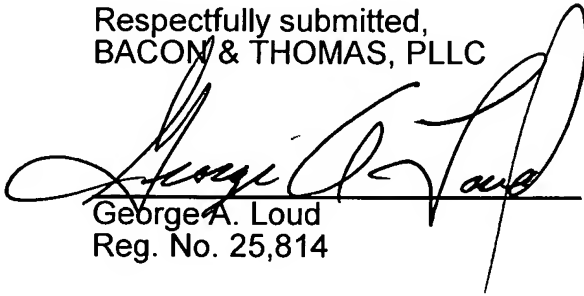
The field control deflecting body 26 and the conductive coating 12 of Quaggia seem to be made of a semiconductive rubber (or metal in Fig. 4) so as to function as an earth shield, similar to the function of electric-field mitigation provided by the annular metal fitting in the present invention. In contrast, the present invention provides an electric-field stress-control layer in addition to an earth shield with the objective of solving the prior art problem wherein a thicker insulating sleeve has been provided for higher voltages, thereby increasing the weight of the device. The structure disclosed by Quaggia provides no solution to that problem.

The Rejection of Claims 8, 14, 15 and 17 for Obviousness (paragraph 10) and of Claims 16 and 18 (paragraph 11)

These rejections are respectfully traversed for the same reasons given above in the traverse of the rejection for anticipation by Quaggia. Tachick and Gerry are applied merely for disclosure of a bend in such a polymer bushing and in no way suggest the features recited by the claims here and in no way suggested by Quaggia, as noted above.

In conclusion, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the rejections of record with a view toward allowance of the claims as amended.

Respectfully submitted,
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